

Appl. No. # 10/754,925

Amdt. dated

Reply to OA of 8/24/2005

CLAIMS

1. (cancelled) An acupuncture needle warmer device comprising:
 - a. a flat watertight plastic container filled with supersaturated solution, the container having a closed folded position and an open position,
 - b. a fold line defined upon the container body wherein the container body can fold on the fold line to snugly enclose a handle of an acupuncture needle in the closed folded position,
 - c. an exothermic crystallization trigger located within the container body, triggerable by manual depression.
2. (cancelled) The needle warmer device of claim 1 wherein the crystallization trigger is a thin metal plate mechanism having slits that a user can depress through the sidewalls.
3. (cancelled) The needle warmer device of claim 1 further comprising an adhesive tape mounted to the flat watertight plastic container for maintaining the container in closed folded position.
4. (cancelled) The needle warmer device of claim 1 wherein the supersaturated solution is sodium acetate in aqueous form.
5. (cancelled) The needle warmer device of claim 1 wherein the supersaturated solution is sodium acetate in solid form.
6. (cancelled) The needle warmer device of claim 1 wherein the supersaturated solution is held in a cylindrical plastic container.
7. (currently amended) An acupuncture needle warmer device comprising:
 - a. a rigid watertight plastic container filled with supersaturated solution[[,]];
 - b. a membrane at a first end of the rigid [[cylindrical]] watertight plastic container[[,]]; wherein the membrane can be punctured by an acupuncture needle handle inserted into the rigid watertight plastic container initiating exothermic crystallization of the supersaturated solution around the acupuncture needle handle, wherein the supersaturated solution is sodium acetate in aqueous form.
8. (currently amended) [The needle warmer device of claim 7 further comprising] An acupuncture needle warmer device comprising:
 - a. a rigid watertight plastic container filled with supersaturated solution;
 - b. a membrane at a first end of the rigid watertight plastic container; wherein the

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- membrane can be punctured by an acupuncture needle handle inserted into the rigid watertight plastic container initiating exothermic crystallization of the supersaturated solution around the acupuncture needle handle; and
- c. a crystallization trigger of a thin metal plate mechanism having slits in the rigid watertight plastic container and wherein a shallow depression snugly encloses the handle of the acupuncture needle and holds the membrane mounted inside the hollow depression.
9. (original) The needle warmer device of claim [[7]], 8 wherein the supersaturated solution is sodium acetate in aqueous form.
10. (cancelled) The needle warmer device of claim 7 wherein the supersaturated solution is sodium acetate in solid form.
11. (currently amended) The needle warmer device of claim [[7]], 8 wherein the supersaturated solution is held in a cylindrical plastic container.
12. (original) An acupuncture needle warmer device comprising:
- a. a rigid watertight plastic container filled with supersaturated solution[.];
 - b. a hollow depression at a first end of the rigid [[cylindrical]] watertight plastic container, the hollow depression snugly enclosing a handle of an acupuncture needle[.]; and
 - c. an exothermic crystallization trigger located within the container body, triggerable by manual depression.
13. (original) The needle warmer device of claim 12 wherein the crystallization trigger is a thin metal plate mechanism having slits.
14. (original) The needle warmer device of claim 12 wherein the supersaturated solution is sodium acetate in aqueous form.
15. (original) The needle warmer device of claim 12 wherein the supersaturated solution is sodium acetate in solid form.
16. (original) The needle warmer device of claim 12 wherein the supersaturated solution is held in a cylindrical plastic container.
17. (new) The needle warmer device of claim 16, wherein the crystallization trigger is a thin metal plate mechanism having slits.
18. (new) The needle warmer device of claim 16, wherein the supersaturated solution is

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sodium acetate in aqueous form.

19. (new) The needle warmer device of claim 16, wherein the supersaturated solution is sodium acetate in solid form.
20. (new) The needle warmer device of claim 16, wherein the supersaturated solution is sodium acetate.
21. (new) The needle warmer device of claim 7, wherein the crystallization trigger is a thin metal plate mechanism having slits.
22. (new) The needle warmer device of claim 7, wherein the supersaturated solution is sodium acetate in solid form.